

REMARKS

Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-6 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 is an independent claim. Claims 2-6 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended in accordance with the agreed upon limitations from the Personal Examiner Interview conducted on August 24, 2006. Specifically, the claim has been amended to recite that “a first portion at a top edge at each corner of said moving contact plate is bent into an upper component, and a second portion at the top edge at each corner of said moving contact plate is bent into a lower component in such a fashion as to form card acceptance portions.” No new matter has been added by way of the amendments.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6 of the present application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,606,018 (“Takano”). For the reasons set forth below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 requires, in part, “a first portion at a top edge at each corner of said moving contact plate is bent into an upper component, and a second portion at the top edge at each corner of said moving contact plate is bent into a lower component in such a fashion as to form card acceptance portions.”

The above limitations allow line contact between the distal end of the card and the card acceptance portions, thus restricting the occurrence of wear dust by diffusing a sliding contact range. In contrast to the claimed invention, Takano discloses card accepting portions formed on the *side edge* of the moving contact plate, as opposed to the *top edge*. The Examiner indicated in the Personal Examiner Interview of August 24, 2006 that the above limitations would read over the prior art of record.


For at least the above reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Takano. Claims 2-6 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1. Thus, claims 2-6 are patentable over Takano, at least for the same reasons as claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places the present application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account No. 50-0591, under Order No. 15115/095001 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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